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February 8, 2012

by Mambo Chita Tann (Author)

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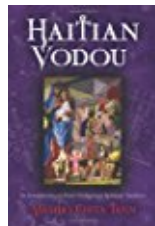
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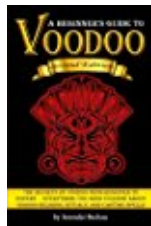
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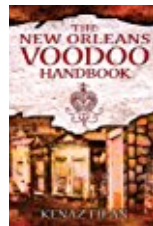
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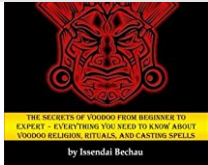
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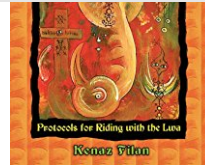
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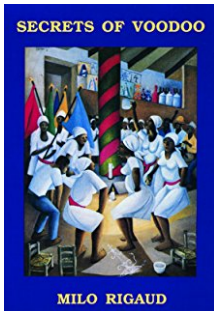
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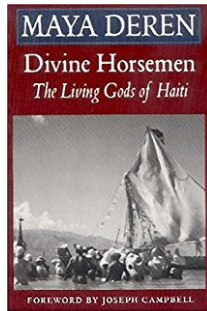
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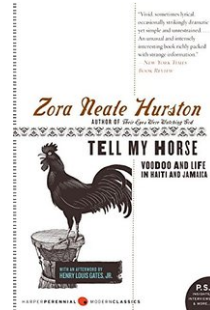
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
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"....An essential read for anyone who is curious about or already engaged in the study or practice of not only Vodou, but any Afro-Caribbean tradition." - Saumya Arya Haas, State of Formation/HuffPo religion blogger

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Discover Vodou Culture!



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An Introduction to Haiti's Indigenous Spiritual Tradition

By [Dr. Eoghan C. Ballard](#) on May 31, 2012

Format: Paperback **Verified Purchase**

I am not generally excited about the new crop of introductory books on Afro-diasporic religions. First of all, most tend to be very light weight, and many contain outright errors and falsehoods. Even when they don't, they often are guilty of oversimplification and most are filled with shoddy or questionable conclusions. So, it was a pleasant surprise for me to read Mambo Chita Tann's book on Haitian Vodou. Is it perfect? No. Could she, and I know her academic qualifications, have written a much more detailed and challenging, and hence for me more satisfying, text? Certainly. That being said, this was a great book. She gives a sound history, and contextualized these traditions in a way that was both accurate and accessible for the average reader.

There is another issue I have had more than once with this genre of book on Vodou. That issue is the "practical" ritual designed for non-initiates. Often they reflect the author's own imagination and do not represent anything found within the tradition itself. I recognize that a Mambo or Houngan (Vodou Priestess or Priest) may not be eager to give away their secret recipes or at least not in all details) but then don't invent new practices. Someone reading that book will think that what they have read is a "real" Vodou practice when it in fact is not. In this book Mambo T gives a detailed set of instructions for an iliminasyon (illumination) - a simply ritual for opening the way to better communication with one's loas, zanges, or spirits - the saints of Vodou. Some will have other ways to performing this, and it may be true that in many houses at least, the herbs and other components are different or more complicated than the recipe given here. However, this is a valid and effective ritual, and it is the real deal, not someone's invention from outside the tradition.

So, on a couple of the most important points, I give this book a big thumbs up! I still would argue that if this subject really interests you, you need to read the classics, especially those by Milo Rigaud, Maya Deren, and Alfred Métraux, but this is a concise, well written text with some practical advice for someone who wants to do more than read about this tradition. It has earned its space alongside those others.

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By [William W. Forgey, M.D.](#) on February 18, 2016

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I have made over 30 trips to Haiti and it has been my fortune to meet many knowledgeable persons there who have spent decades in that country working with the rural agriculturalists. It would be impossible to understand the rural people of Haiti without know something of the history of the country and a basic understanding of vodou. For the history of the country I would recommend Haiti: Aftershocks of History - but for an introductory history, this book does a great of folding together the complexity of the revolution and the subsequent power struggles, how this has left a nation of various domestic and foreign tensions, and how vodou has played a central role in Haitian history and current culture. I highly recommend this book for anyone going to Haiti and anyone interested in a basic understanding of Haitian vodou.

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Haitian VoDou is a remarkable book!

By [Susan Barnes](#) on February 25, 2014

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Haitian Vodou: An Introduction to Haiti's Indigenous Spiritual Tradition is sure to become a classic must have for students of Vodou.

This book should be on anyone's reading list who want to learn more about Haitian Vodou from an expert.

Mambo Chita Tann is a Mambo Asogwe, the highest initiated rank in Haitian Vodou. She is a published author, teacher and revered spiritual leader. The book covers topics such as: How Haitian Vodou came about, the basic principles and the ethics of Haitian Vodou.

Mambo Chita Tann has a unique voice that reaches out from the pages in such a way that you feel as if you are getting a private lesson from a warm, brilliant guide. Not only does the book cover the twenty-one nations of the Lwa, she also teaches the reader about the ceremonies and rites of passage. This gem of a book contains Haitian recipes, Prayers in English and French and specific information on the lineage of the Lwa and common misconceptions such as "voodoo dolls." I highly recommend this important book that is an integral part of Haitian history. Thank-you for writing this book, Mambo Chita Tann and thank-you for blessing this book, Papa Legba Avara.

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By [Kindle Customer](#) on January 14, 2012

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Well written book! I couldn't put it down even if you paid me to. [Read more](#)

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Excellent Read!

I am enjoying this read. Learning a lot about history of Vodou, and the country Haiti. I haven't finished the book yet but it has certainly shed so much light on hidden knowledge... [Read more](#)

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Straight To The Point and Historically Accurate

Wonderful book! Very insightful, and quite respectful to the Haitian Vodou community. I have had a chance to speak with Mambo Chita Tann personally and can say that she is... [Read more](#)

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Mambo Chita Tann conveys the essence of Haitian Vodou the way a person not able to live in Haiti, or not familiar with it's culture, can understand. She also stresses how important the community, family, and ancestors are to Vodou.

The book is broken down into three parts: Part One What is Haitian Vodou? Part Two Lezanj: Meet the Twenty-One Nations of the Lwa and Part Three Seremoni: Haitian Vodou Ceremonies and Rites of Passage. The chapters clearly present the information and are an indispenible resource for the beginner, as well as a refresher for the more experienced practitioner. It will help you on your path if you choose to become a Vodouisant, or if not, give a better understanding of how it all works. Additionally the Appendix provides a valuable guide for further research and study. One can only pray Mambo T will write a follow up book and delve deeper into Haitian Vodou.

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Vouched: 100% Authentic Vodou Material !!!

By [Wesly Edmond](#) on December 6, 2014

Format: Kindle Edition **Verified Purchase**

Being Haitian-American and raised in the Vodou tradition I must admit this book is EXCELLENT for those wanting an intro to this very deep and complex religion... It gives you the basic on what expect on a lot of subjects areas.. Seems like the author had her challenges when she first began her spiritual journey in Vodou, but now what communicate with her audience on how to avoid those challenges for non haitian especially..

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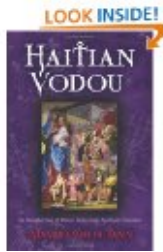
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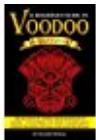
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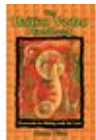
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
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